¶ By the King.

A Proclamation inhibiting the Importation of Whale Finnes into his Maieſties Dominions by any, but the Muſcouy Company.

WHereas Wee by Our Proclamation giuen at Wanſted, the eleuenth day of September in the twelfth yeere of Our reigne of Great Brittaine, France, and Ireland, for the reaſons therein expreſſed, and for the incouragement of Our welbeloued Subiects, the company of Merchants trading for Muſcouia, Greeneland and the parts adioyning, commonly called the Muſcouia Company, did ſtraitly and expreſly forbid and prohibit all Aliens and Strangers whatſoeuer, and alſo all Our owne Subiects (others then the ſayd Muſcouia Merchants, and that in their ioynt ſtock) to bring into any Our Kingdomes, and Dominions any whale Finnes vpon paine of confiſcation of the ſame, and of Our high indignation and diſpleaſure, and of ſuch further puniſhment as ſhould be meet to be inflicted vpon the Offenders for their contempt in that behalfe.

Now foraſmuch as we are giuen to vnderſtand, That Our ſayd Proclamation tooke not that good effect, nor found that due obedience and conformity which we expected: we haue therefore in further manifeſtation of our former intentions and gracious fauor towards the ſayd Company, thought good eftſoones to publiſh Our Royall pleaſure heerein, and to reuiue and quicken our ſayd former Proclamation, which we cannot but take in ill part, hath beene ſo much neglected: And therefore We doe by theſe preſents ſtraitly charge, prohibit, and forbid, aſwell all Aliens and Strangers whatſoeuer, as alſo our naturall born Subiects and Denizens, That they nor any of them (other then the ſayd Muſcouia Merchants, and that in their ioynt ſtocke onely) ſhall from henceforth directly or indirectly import, or bring into Our Kingdomes and Dominions, or any of them, any whale Finnes, vpon paine of forfeiture, and confiſcation of the ſame, whether they be found on board of any Ship, Hoy, Boate, or Bottome, or layd on land

53351
80

in any Warehouse, Storehouse, Shop, Cellar, or any other place whatsoeuer, and vpon paine of Our high Indignation and displeasure, and such other punishment, as by Our Court of Starre chamber shalbe thought meet to be inflicted vpon them, or any of them, as contemners of Our Royall will and commandement in this behalfe.

And wee doe likewise straitly charge, prohibite and forbid, aswell all Aliens and Strangers, as Our naturall borne Subiects & Denizens (other then the sayd Muscouia Merchants) that they nor any of them doe presume to buie, vtter, sell, barter or contract for, any Whale finnes, knowing the same to be imported into any of our Realmes or Dominions contrary to Our will & pleasure heerein declared, vpon paine of Our high indignation and displeasure, & such further punishment as by Our said Court of Starre chamber shall bee thought meet to be inflicted vpon such offenders, as contemners also of Our Royall commandement. And to the end this Our pleasure may take the better effect, we doe heereby charge, and command all Customers, Comptrollers, Searchers, waiters, Farmors, and Collectors of Our Customes, and other our Officers and Ministers, carefully to attend euery one in his seuerall place, the execution heereof, and in no wise to permit or suffer any Whale finnes directly or indirectly, openly or priuately to be brought, or imported into any Our Kingdomes or Dominions, contrary to Our Royal pleasure heerein expressed, or being so imported, that they doe not permit, or suffer the same to bee colourably customed for other goods and Merchandize, but that forthwith they or some of them doe seize and take to Our vse all such Whalefinnes as shall be so imported, and immediately vpon such seizure made, to giue notice thereof in writing to Our Register for forfeitures in Our Custome house in the Port of London, vpon paine to vndergoe such punishment, as shalbe thought meet by the Lords of Our Priuie Councell.

Neuertheleſſe Our intent and meaning is, That the sayd Muscouie Company, and none other, shall or may buy, and sell, barter, or contract for, any such Whalefinnes, as being imported contrary to this Our Proclamation shalbe confiscate and seized, and the same, being sold by the sayd Company, may be afterward bought, contracted for, and vsed by any other Our Subiects at their will and pleasure. Any thing heerein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Giuen at Our Mannour of Greenwich, the eighteenth day of May, in the seuenteenth yeere of our Raigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the two and fiftieth.

Imprinted at London by Bonham Norton
and Iohn Bill, Printers to the Kings most excellent Maiestie.
Anno, M.DC.XIX.

533514